

UNIU57.001APC

PATENT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Hirokazu KIMURA ) Group Art Unit Unknown  
 Int'l Appl. No. : PCT/JP00/00662 )  
 Int'l Filing Date: February 7, 2000 )  
 For : TRANSFER DEVICE )  
 Examiner : Unknown )

PRE  
AMEND

MENT

#4/A

ASW

JULY 17  
2002PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
 Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to examination on the merits, please amend the above-captioned U.S.  
 National Phase Application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Prior to the first line of the specification on page 1, please insert the following paragraph:

- This application is the U.S. National Phase under 35 U.S.C. §371 of International  
 Application PCT/JP00/00662, filed February 7, 2000, which claims priority to Japanese Patent  
 Application No. 11/255365, filed September 9, 1999. The International Application was  
 published under PCT Article 21(2) in a language other than English.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 3 and 5 as follows:

3. (Amended) The transfer device according to claim 1, characterized in that a ring-  
 like rail is used as the horizontal rail, and is arranged along the horizontal plane,  
 an outer frame carriage forming an internal space is used as the carriage, and is  
 supported to the ring-like rail at a plurality of portions of the carriage,  
 a plurality of vertical columns is arranged in the ring-like rail along an inner  
 periphery of the carriage,